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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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August 22, 2006

To: Washington Learns K-12 Advisory Committee Members

From: Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent

Re: Peer Reviews of "An Evidenced-Based Approach to School Finance Adequacy in Washington, June 28, 2006" by Picus and Associates

Representative Glenn Anderson of the Washington Learns Steering Committee requested a peer review of the Picus and Associates report. As a result of this request, the Office of Financial Management contracted for the two documents written by James R. Smith and Eric A. Hanushek, education researchers. There is a possibility of third review. If and when it becomes available, we will forward the review and a response from Picus and Associates to you.

In this packet, you will find four documents:

- Representative Glenn Anderson's letter to the Steering Committee, June 28, 2006
- *Review and Critique of "An Evidence-Based Approach to School Finance Adequacy in Washington" Draft dated June 28, 2006* by James R. Smith of Management Analysis and Planning, Inc.
- *Is the 'Evidence-Based Approach' a Good Guide to Finance Policy?* by Eric A. Hanushek of Stanford University
- Response by Picus and Associates

Representative Anderson writes in his letter, "...a peer review of this key instrument of our study will promote greater public confidence in our findings and recommendations when we submit them to the Governor, the Legislature and the public in December." Peer reviews are a common practice in research and give us additional context for the public dialogue around the Picus and Associates' report.

These reviews were limited to the June 28, 2006 draft report by Picus and Associates. The work of the K-12 Advisory Committee and the Successful Districts and Professional Judgment Panels Reports also completed by Picus and Associates were not reviewed.

The final document you have is a response to these reviews from Picus and Associates.

